

role model to her peers and to future generations.●

#### BIG SKY AIRLINES TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate a small business in my state, Big Sky Airlines, on their 20th Anniversary.

Big Sky Airlines commenced scheduled passenger service on September 11, 1978. The initial flight flew from Billings to Helena with continuing service to Kalispell. The aircraft was a Hadley-Paige Jetstream with a seating capacity of 19.

Today, Big Sky operates a fleet of six nineteen-passenger Metro III aircraft, with service to 12 cities in Montana and Spokane, Washington. The company operates out of its hub in Billings and provides connecting opportunities from Eastern and Central Montana to its markets in the west. The Montana cities are Glasgow, Glendive, Miles City, Wolf Point and Sidney in the east. Havre and Lewistown in central Montana and Great Falls, Helena, Missoula, Kalispell and Spokane in the west. All of the eastern and central Montana service is operated under the Essential Air Service subsidy contract with the Department of Transportation.

Big Sky Airlines has been through a lot in their 20 years of providing service in Montana. They've had their good times and bad. However, through it all they continued to provide service to remote areas that would have been further isolated from the Nation's economic centers without them. The Essential Air Service program is critical to these communities. Without this service, these communities would be seriously hampered in their efforts to attract new business or even to retain those they now have, resulting in further strain on local economies and loss of jobs.

In my visits to the state, I frequently fly on Big Sky Airlines. In our state, to many cities, it's the ONLY way to fly. I've had lots of experiences, I could tell you about. However, I'd rather talk about the many families I've seen reunited as the Big Sky plane lands in those rural communities.

I'd like to congratulate the Board of Big Sky Airlines and their chairman, Jon Marchi for their foresight and perseverance. I'd also like to congratulate the officers of the company: Kim Champney, the President and CEO, and Craig Denney, the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating officer. Kim has only been there a short time, but is moving the company in exciting new directions. I've personally seen Craig load the luggage, check in the passengers and send the airplane on its way. He knows how to do every job in the company and do it well.

I'd also like to congratulate John Rabenberg and the other members of the Essential Air Service task force for the hard work they do in their communities for this program.

Big Sky Airlines currently employs 103 people throughout its system (all in Montana). And you can tell it's a good company to work for. Whether you are checking in at the counter, or watching the pilots get ready to take-off, they are very customer service oriented. It's a pleasure to fly with them, and Mr. President, it's a pleasure for me today to congratulate them on their 20th Anniversary and to wish them many more years of flying the big sky of Montana.●

#### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

● Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise today to raise awareness of a startlingly common problem occurring every 15 seconds across our nation—and that is the issue of domestic violence. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and I would like to take this opportunity to discuss the devastating impact of domestic violence on individuals, families and our communities.

Few people want to tell the dark secrets of their family. Though many keep incidents of domestic violence secret, it is a sad part of our national landscape. Through the efforts of medical researchers, law enforcement officers, advocates, and victims, more attention is now being paid. In the last two years alone, according to the National Library of Medicine, approximately 500 articles have been written on domestic violence in prominent journals and periodicals.

Despite these efforts, many remain uncomfortable talking about domestic violence. According to the Department of Justice Violence Against Women Office, domestic violence is a crime that is frequently underreported to law enforcement authorities. Victims often live in fear and do not share their troubled secrets. They fear threats, additional violence and more pain.

The U.S. Department of Justice estimates that 3 to 4 million women are battered each year by their husbands or boyfriends. Data published by the Commonwealth Fund shows that women are more often the victims of domestic violence than victims of burglary, muggings or other physical crimes combined. The National Crime Victimization Survey indicates that from 1991 to 1996, approximately half of female victims of domestic violence were physically injured.

Unfortunately, only one in five of those injured victims sought treatment at a medical facility. As a physician, I know that our health care delivery systems can be critical links in identifying cases of domestic violence. In a 1990 study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 22 to 35% of women treated in emergency rooms were there for injuries related to ongoing abuse. Health care providers can have a significant impact in identifying such cases, and we must give them the tools to help us address the problem.

Another sad truth is that domestic violence crosses all racial, gender, age and economic boundaries. Children, men and the elderly are also victims. Child abuse is 15 times more likely to occur in families where domestic violence is present. In the late 1980's, reports of elder abuse increased by almost 20% nationally. With these staggering numbers before us, it is apparent that domestic violence necessitates a coordinated community response with partners at the local, state and federal levels.

That's why I am particularly heartened by efforts in Tennessee to address the issue. The Tennessee Task Force Against Domestic Violence is dedicated to ending violence in the lives of women and children through their network of coalitions and shelters. The Task Force has partnered with the Tennessee Medical Association to educate health care providers. They also work closely with law enforcement authorities. My home town of Nashville, for example, has the largest domestic violence division of any police department in the country. Working together with the Task Force, the city's police department has seen an increase in the number of calls from victims who now have more confidence in the system. Knoxville, Chattanooga and Memphis have similar efforts underway. I am proud of my fellow Tennesseans for the example they are setting and the models they are creating. They are sending a clear message that domestic violence is wrong and has no place in our society.

We are working to send a similar message at the federal level. I have authored three bills which contain provisions to address domestic violence. S. 1754, the "Health Professions Education Partnerships Act of 1998," passed the Senate by unanimous consent in July. Among other things, it requests that the Institute of Medicine examine and make recommendations regarding the training needs of health professionals with respect to detection and referral of victims. In S. 1722, the "Women's Health Research and Prevention Amendments of 1998," and in S. 2330, the "Patients' Bill of Rights," we authorize federal funding for community programs on domestic violence through the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act. I have recently joined my colleagues Senators DOMENICI and STEVENS to cosponsor S. 2395, the "Prescription for Abuse Act," which will help health care providers to identify, address and prevent domestic violence.

Domestic violence warrants our full and responsive consideration. I urge my colleagues to take time during October—Domestic Violence Awareness Month—to determine what more we can do to address this challenge. Together we can send a clear message that domestic violence must continue to be addressed comprehensively, creatively, and compassionately.●